

D-8147

S.1, Special Branch. Station,

## REPORT

Date October 29, 1937.

*Subject.* Public Works Department (Soochow Road) Depot - Agitation

Made by D.S.I. Lurier.

Forwarded by

Reference the remarks of D.C. (Special Branch) on this section's report of October 26 on the above subject: I have to report that Coolies No's 102 Tsai Too Yung (蔡富榮), 282 Yuan Teh Soeh (袁德壽) and 429 Tsao Teh Ling (左德林) who, as stated in the above mentioned report, formed a delegation and interviewed Mr. T.K.Ho, Deputy Secretary of the Shanghai Municipal Council, on 25 October, are not the real agitators in the present unrest. However, the dismissal of these men from F.W.D. service is at present under consideration by reason of the fact that they disobeyed an order strictly forbidding them to lodge complaints in person to officials in the Administration Building.

The agitators principally responsible for the present state of affairs have now been ascertained to be No's 143, 145, 188 and 206 (all Central and Northern). The P.W.D. Authorities have been consulted regarding these agitators and state that they are quite agreeable that these men should be placed outside the barriers if this action should be decided upon by the Police. In this connection Mr. Weststead could assist in identifying the offenders as he is able to recognize all of them.

D.C. (Special Branch).

C. P.

You may like to speak Gimson

DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE  
(SPECIAL BRANCH)

9 OCT. 1937

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Station,

REPORT

Date October 29, 1937.

Subject Discontent amongst the unemployed workers of the Public Works  
Department Soochow Road Depot.

Made by D.S.I. Laurier

Forwarded by

C. Crawford

With further reference to this sections report of 22 October on the above subject I have to correct certain mistakes contained therein.

At the foot of the first page it was stated that the Public Works Department had informed the coolies that as from the commencement of last week they would be employed in rotation, which would ensure each man's receiving one full day's pay and five one-third day's pay per week which would be equal to two and two-third days' pay per week per man. This is incorrect, the announcement being to the effect that those coolies for whom regular work could be found would be paid normal wages as long as there was work to be done but that should the present volume of work decrease at any time those affected by the decrease would then be automatically placed on the unemployed list. At the same time all unemployed coolies attached to the depot, of whom there are some 1,800, were told that there could be no guarantee of immediate future employment and that so long as the Council were able they would be paid, in the nature of a dispensation, an amount equivalent to one-third of a day's pay per man. It was made clear to them, however, that the Council was under no obligation to either continue the dispensation indefinitely or guarantee re-employment at any future date. This announcement by the Public Works Department was made after the Department had offer<sup>ed</sup> to repatriate and pay two weeks' pay per man to all unemployed workers who desired to leave Shanghai. However the 180 coolies who accepted these terms subsequently turned the offer down necessitating cancellation of the arrangements which the Council had made with the Shipping Company for

KLB  
24 OCT 1937  
SHANGHAI

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ..

REPORT

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Station,

Date.....:9

Subject.....

Made by..... Forwarded by.....

their repatriation.

On page 2 of the report referred to above it was stated that the Public Works Department had warned the coolies that the members of any delegation calling at the Administration Building to air grievances would be arrested - this is incorrect as instant dismissal was the warning given.

Efforts are now being made to ascertain the identity of the agitators principally responsible for the present feeling of discontent and a further report will be submitted as soon as this information is obtained.

Ind: -

D. O. A. B.

29/10

*H. L. L.*  
D. S. I.

D.C. (Special Branch).

*Special Branch Order*

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Misc. File No. 456/37.

Singapore Station,

REPORT

Date Oct. 27th. 19 37.

Subject Further to Disturbance over salary at the P.W.D. Markham Road Depot.

Made by D.S.I. Taylor.

Forwarded by *D. J. Taylor*

Sir,

Since forwarding the previous report on this occurrence, police have kept observation at the P.W.D. Markham Road Depot, but to date no disturbance of any nature has eventuated.

Inspector Holt, P.W.D. has informed the undersigned to the effect that there is now no signs of disagreement amongst the coolies, as those entitled to various amounts of pay have accepted same without further ado.

There is no reason to suppose, he states, that there will be any further signs of disagreement amongst them and no mention of the dismissed coolie, No. 39, is likely to recur.

He considers the incident is closed.

Forwarded for information.

Copy to Special Branch.

*D. J. Taylor*  
D.S.I.

*D. J. Taylor*

*28/10*

*C. S.*

*D. J.*

*28/10*

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. 81

S.1. Special Branch

REPORT

Date October 26, 1937

Subject Public Works Department (Soochow Road) Depot - agitation amongst workers.

Made by D.S.I. Laurier

Forwarded by

C. C. Laurier D.S.I.

Coolies Nos. 102 Tsai Foo Yung (蔡富荣), 282 Yuan Teh Soeh (袁德寿), and 429 Tsou Teh Ling (左德林), representatives of the road workers attached to the Public Works Department Soochow Road Depot, called on Mr. T. K. Ho, Deputy Secretary of the Shanghai Municipal Council at the Administration Building at 3 p.m. October 25, 1937, and presented a petition (translation of which was forwarded with Special Branch Report on October 25) requesting Mr. Ho to negotiate with the Public Works Department for restoration of the half-pay scale of wages which was in force between August 19, and October 21, when the Council reduced the wages of unemployed workers to one-third. In reply, Mr. Ho stated that he would take this matter up with the Public Works Department and would give the representatives an answer in due course. The representatives expressed satisfaction with the answer and withdrew quietly.

Prior to visiting Mr. T. K. Ho, the representatives mentioned above called at the Chinese Ratepayers Association, 59 Hongkong Road intending to interview Mr. Yu Ya Ching. This gentleman, however, was absent at the time and the representatives left without seeing him.

*Laurier*  
D. S. I.

D.C. (Special Branch).

Are it about to reach  
agitation of much we seek  
further?



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In American  
DBR.  
24/10

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Section 1, Special Branch

REPORT

Date October 25, 1937.

Subject (in full) F.W.D. (Soochow Road) Depot - agitation amongst workers.

Made by D.S.I. Shih Ssu-chien

Forwarded by

C. Chen

A petition, a translation of which is herewith attached, was prepared by the road workers attached to the F.W.D. Sookchow Road Depot, and has been handed to foremen Ksu Mei Sen (許梅生) and Chen Ah Wei (陳阿偉) for transmission to the Public Works Department of the Shanghai Municipal Council.

It is further learned that workers Tsai Foo Lung (蔡福龍) Tsang Lee Sung and three others may make an appeal to Mr. T.A. Ho, Deputy Secretary of the Shanghai Municipal Council, at the Administration Building at 2 p.m. to-day, October 25, 1937.

Dist:-

D.O. A.

\* Central

\* mtd. at 11:30 am

D.C. (Special Branch).

D.S.I.

25/10

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C.O. J. Lih

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Translation of a petition submitted by the road workers of the Soochow Road Engineering Depot to Public Works Department.

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October 25, 1937.

Sometime ago, we were notified by your Council to the effect that the workers would be given curtailed work and that repatriation fees would be issued to us. As a matter of fact the repatriation fund which you issued to us was insufficient for the purpose. So we have petitioned your Council for the issue of 2 months' pay for our repatriation, but no reply has so far been received. Now, our weekly pay has further been reduced from one-half pay to one-third of our pay, which came into force on October 21. Most of our workers have to support families of some 8 members; one-third of our weekly pay is not more than \$1.30 which means that our daily income is less than 19 cents. It is absolutely impossible to support a family with this small pay. For humanities sake, you should not do this. We request you to withdraw your orders and keep issuing us half pay weekly.



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Central  
25/10/37

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S.M.C. I.S.D. coolies present petition  
to Mr. T.K. Ho, Assistant Secretary S.M.C.  
Secretariat.

At about 3p.m. Monday, Oct. 25, 1937 a deputation  
of three I.S.D. coolies named (1) Leo Teh Ling (左德林),  
(2) Yuen Teh Lee (袁德寿) and (3) Tsai Foo Yoong (蔡富荣)  
called at the Administration Building in order to  
present a petition to Mr. T.K. Ho Assistant Secretary  
S.M.C. Secretariat containing a protest concerning  
reduction in salaries of I.S.D. coolies.

Mr. T.K. Ho received the petition at about 3.45p.m.  
and later informed the representatives that the matter  
came under the province of the F.W.D. where same will  
receive attention. The representatives then left the  
building quietly.

A party of Uniform Police under Inspector Brownrigg  
with detectives were in attendance.

Enquiries by D.S.I. Tilton and C.D.S. 36.

*Special Branch copy*  
S.M.C. I.S.D. 1/c. S.

D. D. O. "A"

*[Signature]*  
D. S. I.  
76/10  
C 26/6

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

3.1, Special Branch. ~~Section~~

REPORT

Date October 23, 1937.

Subject P.S.D. (Soochow Road) Depot - agitation amongst workers.

Made by D.S.I. Laurier Forwarded by C. Gaudet

Mr. Brennan-Craddock of the Public Works Department gave an interview to three representatives of the coolies in the Soochow Road Depot at 10.45 a.m. on October 23 when the workers were instructed as follows:-

1. The Council had now definitely cancelled its offer to grant unemployed coolies two weeks pay and repatriation, in view of the coolies' agitation for further extension of these privileges.
2. The Council is definitely not prepared to continue half pay benefits to unemployed coolies, though so long as it is able to, it will pay them one third of a day's pay for days on which they are unemployed.

The coolies' representatives reiterated continued payment of half pay for unemployed workers and stated that they would send a delegation to interview Mr. T.F. Ho if this request was not complied with. Mr. Brennan-Craddock warned them that all members of such a delegation would be dismissed instantly.

After further discussion Mr. Brennan-Craddock assured the coolies that if they were prepared to submit a further letter to the Council agreeing to dismissal on payment of two weeks' pay that he would recommend, though not guarantee, acceptance by the Council.

The discussion terminated at 11.30 a.m. without further incident.

The three representatives who attended are as follows:-

- No.14 Sung Dau Sung 孫道生
- No.748 Zung Ah Yang 陳河楊
- No.102 Tsai Foo Yoong 蔡富榮

None of the above men are agitators. Names and numbers of agitators are being ascertained.

D.C. (Special Branch)

D.S.I. Laurier

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MD  
25 OCT 1937

Dist:-  
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B.

DBR  
23/10

*Special Branch Control*

File No. **11 cc. 456/37**

**SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.**

**Sing** Station,

**REPORT**

Date **21st Oct.** 19 **37**

Subject **Disturbance over salary at the P.W.D. Markham Road Depot.**

Made by **D.S.I. Taylor.**

Forwarded by *D. Perkins Insp 110*

Sir,

At 6.45 p.m. on 21/10/37, a telephone message was received from Inspector Hudson of the P.W.D., reporting a large number of coolies congregated outside the gates of the Markham Road P.W.D. Depot, causing a disturbance.

The Inspector i/o, S.I. Harvey, and a party immediately attended where it was found that 500 coolies, (150 on full-pay, and the remainder on part-time) were congregated at the above place, discussing the possibilities of the demanding of the reinstating of coolie No 39 who was dismissed by Mr. Hopkins, Assistant Engineer, about 14 days ago. It was also learned that it was intended to pay 150 of these coolies, but, these men refused to accept their pay unless the remainder were also paid, at the same time demanding that Coolie 39 be reinstated.

These coolies were finally dispersed, without any disturbance, by police, shortly after arrival.

Inspector Hatt, P.W.D., will supply the names and other particulars of the instigators of this occurrence, in detail, when interviewed tomorrow A.M. 22/10/37.

Enquiries revealed that 350 of these coolies have been on half-pay since the 19th August 37, but for this weeks salary they were scheduled to receive 1/3 only, they being merely employed when work was available. This is partly responsible for the discontent.

No disturbance is expected, but observation is being maintained by police in the usual way.

A further report will be forwarded, after enquiries re the instigators of this occurrence have been made.

Enquiries proceeding.

Copy to S.I. Harvey

Sent 21. 1/10.

D. S. I.

*C.D.S. Sch  
C. 22/10  
S.I.  
Further  
D.B.R.  
22/10*

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

S.1. Special Branch

REPORT

Date October 22, 19 37

Subject Discontent amongst the workers of the Public Works Department,  
Soochow Road Depot.

Made by D.S.I. Laurier

Forwarded by

C. Caspary

DC, LB  
then agitation  
Kaiser, as  
can decide  
what action  
to take.

MB 2/6  
26/7/37

C.P.  
As soon as  
we can beat  
the agitation?  
suggesting the  
to put outside  
to settle if  
possible to  
labor pressure.  
This is a time  
to permit the  
agitation.  
MB  
23 OCT. 1937  
DC (C-)  
See.

At 9.30 a.m. October 22, upon receipt of a telephone message from Louza Station, detectives attached to this branch proceeded to the Public Works Department (Soochow Road) Depot. Upon arrival it was found that a crowd of several hundred coolies had collected in the compound and on the roadway and whilst they showed no outward signs of intending violence it was ascertained, upon entering, that the foreign staff, most of whom had been there since 7 a.m. were unable to leave the premises on account of the refusal of the workers to permit them to do so. It was then ascertained that the present trouble arises out of the present hostilities which have been the cause of the closure of all Public Works Department Depots except the Soochow Road Depot and the Gordon Road Depot. A large number of those coolies who formerly worked in the depots now closed were consequently taken on the strength of the Soochow Road Depot and the regular staff of the depot, numbering some 700 men and the temporarily accommodated men numbering some 1,800 men were from 19th August, 1937, paid a full day's wage for those days on which they were employed and half a day's pay for those days on which there was no work for them to do. Recently, however, the Public Works Department authorities informed the coolies that as from the commencement of the current week they would be employed in a rotation which would ensure that each man received one day's full pay and 5 days at one third pay per week, totalling  $2\frac{2}{3}$  days' pay per week per man. Strong objection was taken to this decision by the workers, whereupon the Public Works Department authorities offered, as a counter measure, repatriation and two weeks pay, payable on board the boats at time of departure, to those men

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who did not wish to continue in service on the proposed new terms.

On October 21, the workers countered with a demand for repatriation and two months pay per man, in a letter addressed to the Council. At 7 a.m. October 22, the Public Works Department gave the workers a verbal reply to the effect that the terms of the offer regarding repatriation and two weeks pay were cancelled and that the conditions of service in force prior to the offer being made would be reverted to.

After further consultation between the depot authorities and the Head Office on October 22, it was decided that no further action could be decided upon by the Council until a fuller discussion of the matter had taken place.

The foreign and Chinese staff left the depot at about 10.20 a.m. without any show of extreme violence on the part of the coolies. The latter left the depot soon afterwards after having decided to send a delegation to the Administration Building between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. today to demand a more satisfactory reply from the Council to their letter of October 21.

This decision to send a delegation was subsequently cancelled, however, in view of the Public Works Department's warning issued to the coolies several days ago that the members of any such delegation would be arrested if found in the vicinity of the Administration Building.

The coolies thereupon decided upon another course, which was to collect at the depot on Soochow Road and there await a reply from the Council. Consequently between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. between 300 and 400 coolies collected on the roadway outside the depot with this object in view - their inability to enter

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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the compound being due to the gates having been previously shut by the police on duty there.

A copy of the letter addressed to the Public Works Department by the coolies on October 21, 1937 is attached hereto.

*D. S. I.*

D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

*Distribution: D. O. "A"*  
*D. O. "B"*

*Commr. of P. W. D.*  
*J. B. K.*

*20/10*

Translation No. 3843.

Letter (dated 21/10/37) from Workmen.

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To C. P. W., P. W. D.

We have been verbally informed by your officer that our services are to be terminated owing to the curtailment of road works during this period of emergency and that we are to be supplied with passages to our homes.

We are much obliged to you for this kind assistance, but we have to draw your attention to the fact that as we are from different places, such as Shantung, Shansi, Chihli, Anhui, etc., the evacuation of the whole lot of us together with our families to Nantungchow, where we will still be miles away from our native country, will not be the final settlement of the case.

We, therefore, earnestly request that you will kindly grant us all two months' pay to be applied to passages beyond Nantungchow. As a souvenir of our service with the Council, it is our sincere desire to retain our badges and we shall be obliged if you can see your way to comply with this last request of ours.